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Geologist Looking For Wastes

OEPA Expert Checks Site For Poisons Oozing Into Water

READING—Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) geologist Mike Dalton Tuesday resumed his search for buried toxic wastes at the former Cincinnati Milacron Chemical Inc. site on West Street.

Dalton's water and soil samples will be analyzed by the state Department of Health, which also tested pollutants taken from the creek bank, according to his boss, Ken Schultz, head of OEPA's emergency response office.

OEPA is trying to learn if chemicals oozing into the nearby Mill Creek come from the 30-year-old facility. Milacron sold the plant to Thiokol Corp. in April and it was renamed Carstab Corp.

Monday, two Carstab employees gave Dalton a tour of waste disposal sites on their property. The Milacron/Carstab property was chosen be-

cause of its proximity to the creek-bank pollution, OEPA officials said.

If OEPA can trace the pollutants, it can order landowners to clean up or contain the chemicals.

Dalton started Monday after his tour, using a metal detector and power auger to drill test holes from which he is taking water and earth samples. His first effort was stymied by large subsurface rocks, Schultz reported, but a second hole reached gravel and allowed a water sample.

State officials are unsure whether any laws were broken when the chemical wastes were buried, but there are laws against polluting the water.

Monday, Milacron broke its silence on the question and issued a statement from its Oakley headquarters, saying its waste handling was consistent with applicable government rules.

No one at Carstab has responded to calls about the wastes.

—BEN L. KAUFMAN